

collaborators (not named on the title page). However, in any abridged presentation of a subject, the omission of topics or the absence of qualifications may lead to misconceptions. This volume is no exception to the rule. Dr. Netter has not avoided the controversial as well as he may believe. For example, the plate presenting the localization of function of the cerebral cortex includes "suppressor" areas whose very existence in the human cortex—let alone their exact location—has yet to be demonstrated unequivocally. This is known to the specialist in the field but may not be recognized by the practitioner for whom the drawing is made. Unfortunately, there are a number of similar situations in other plates.

In general, however, the non-specialist will find the book helpful and, in most instances, sufficiently accurate for his needs. Its use, however, should include its text as well as its illustrations.

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AN ATLAS OF THE COMMONER SKIN DISEASES—4th Edition. Henry C. G. Semon, M.A., D.M.(Oxon.), F.R.C.P. (London), Consulting Physician for Diseases of the Skin and Former Lecturer to Postgraduates, Royal Northern Hospital. With 147 plates reproduced by direct colour photography from the living subject. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1953. 371 pages, \$13.50.

By combining colored photographs of the various dermatoses with a clinical description of each case, along with appropriate therapy thereof, this volume takes a step in the right direction, as a standard textbook of dermatology with all of the illustrations in color is badly needed.

The photographs in color are, in general, good. The clinical discussions are excellent. The therapeutic recommendations are sound, but unfortunately do not include some of the newer antibiotics for local use only, such as neomycin and bacitracin, for the management of the pyogenic skin diseases, and there is no mention of the great value of ACTH and cortisone in such serious diseases as pemphigus vulgaris. It is possible that these remedies were not available when the text was prepared.

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CLINICAL CARDIOLOGY. Edited by Franklin C. Massey, A.B., M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1953. 1,100 pages, \$13.50.

This impressive volume, under the editorship of Dr. Massey, represents the work of 33 authors covering the field of heart disease. Within the last few years so many new books and new editions of works dealing with the various aspects of diagnosis and treatment of cardiac disease appeared in print that it is almost customary for the author to apologize for writing another book and to state his reasons for doing so. Dr. Massey makes two points in his preface: One, that hitherto inadequate space has been devoted to some "specialty problems" such as pediatrics, anesthesiology, obstetrics and psychiatry in connection with heart disease. He states, furthermore, that the presentation of some newer data usually takes an unnecessarily long time to appear in textbooks, and that controversial subjects are often omitted. In line with these views one finds several chapters which are usually not included in texts on heart disease; separate sections on anatomy of the heart, physiology of the heart; psychiatric implications of cardiology, etc.

Other chapters follow a conventional pattern; general discussions on the normal heart, on cardiac roentgenology and electrocardiography, followed by chapters presenting various cardiac disease entities, such as rheumatic heart disease, hypertension, endocarditis, pericarditis, and others. One whole chapter (15 pp.) is devoted to "tumors of the

heart and pericardium." Two chapters are devoted to cardiac therapy: treatment of arrhythmias and of congestive failure.

While books with multiple authorship offer many advantages, primarily the opportunity for presenting discussion of various subjects by experts in the field, there are well-known disadvantages which are illustrated in this book. Such are: The uneven presentation of various topics with overly lengthy presentation of some and too brief discussion of others; the overlapping and omission of various problems; and the difference in readability of the various presentations. Two chapters impressed the reviewer as unduly long: That on cardiac surgery (100 pp. or ten per cent of the book) which contains not only detailed differential diagnosis of various congenital cardiac defects (which are also discussed in other chapters) but also many minutiae of surgical technique. The other chapter in which the long discussion probably transgresses the line of interest of the average cardiologist is that on arteriosclerosis which deals primarily with the theoretical aspects of its pathogenesis and is 68 pages long. In comparison, it is noteworthy that the subject of rheumatic heart disease and rheumatic fever is presented jointly in a 40-page section, and an equal amount of space is devoted to the therapy of cardiac failure. Treatment of hypertension is discussed in eight pages. The section on electrocardiography impresses one as too advanced for the average clinician; the one on roentgenology appears rather elementary.

In spite of these criticisms the book represents a great deal of thought and planning on the part of the editors and a wealth of valuable information. It provides interesting reading to the advanced student, the internist and the cardiologist, and can be recommended. It does not, however, provide enough unusual and original aspects to put it above the average textbook of cardiac disease. Furthermore, the emphasis on up-to-the-minute presentation of current views and on controversial points is hard to evaluate at the present time; it may prove to be an asset but it may turn into a liability by making the book outdated in a relatively short time.

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DISEASES OF CHILDREN—Garrod, Batten and Thursfield—In Two Volumes—Fifth Edition. Edited by Alan Moncrief, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., Nuffield Professor of Child Health, University of London; and Philip Evans, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.Sc., Physician to the Children's Department and Director of the Department of Child Health, Guy's Hospital. Edward Arnold and Co., London, 1953. Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore. 1973 pages, \$21.00.

This is a new and thoroughly revised edition of the English text originally edited by Garrod, Batten and Thursfield. The present edition is the fifth—the preceding one having appeared in 1947. The editors are Professor Alan Moncrief and Dr. Philip Evans of the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street and Guy's Hospital, both in London. The 50 contributors are drawn from all of Great Britain—half of them from the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children.

Besides covering the field of pediatrics in a thorough and competent manner, the text is profusely illustrated and, in addition, provides up-to-date references. These are chiefly concerned with the European literature and, as such, provide valuable source material frequently not mentioned in American texts. These two volumes are recommended to pediatricians, and to those whose practice includes a large share of children, as a valuable supplement to American texts.